From: Steve Van Damme
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 1:56am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm outraged at the Department of Justice's settlement with Microsoft. I'm not an industry player, just a consumer. But I can smell a bad deal for the public when its that ripe.

How could you be so blind about the intentions of Microsoft when it offered to give away "a billion dollars worth" of its software and some old hardware to schools? Its obvious they are trying to make lemonade out of their loosing the court case by getting their products into schools unfairly where they are not exactly wholeheartedly embraced, and for good reason. Give schools, not Microsoft, the chance to choose what THE SCHOOLS think is best for them.

Make them give the billion in cash; make them EARN their share of school budgets. If you don't, you've either been paid off by Microsoft, or you've been suckered by them, and in my opinion, either way makes you much less respectable.

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